

REMARKS

Claims 23-40 are pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled. Claims 25-40 have been added.

In the Office Action dated April 1, 2003 for the parent application, the Examiner rejected claims 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barnsley et. Al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,347,600).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection. In particular, claim 23, and the claims which depend therefrom, fail to teach or suggest "recursively applying (a) and (b) to the particular one or more quadrants that cannot be estimated by a contractive map of the image." In particular, (a) provides "dividing the image into quadrants." As noted in page 5, lines 17-20 of the application:

"However, if the high variation quadrant may not be accurately estimated using a contractive map of the image, then that particular high variation quadrant is further subdivided and the previous approach is then applied to the subdivisions."

Barnsley fails to teach recursively dividing the image into quadrants in response to one or more quadrants that cannot be estimated by a contractive map of the image. Even assuming, as noted by the Examiner, that the image in Barnsley is divided into quadrants, no where does Barnsley teach or suggest this is done recursively if one or more quadrants cannot be estimated by a contractive map of the image.

Claims 33-40 are patentable based upon at least the same or similar basis as indicated above regarding claims 23-32.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 310-252-7605. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-40 are pending in the application.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 16, 2003

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